

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9811

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 5181

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TU

SUBJ: COMMENTS FROM DEMIREL AND CAGLAYANGIL

1. PRIMIN DEMIREL HOSTED LUNCH JULY 2 IN HONOR OF VISITING FORMER AMBASSADOR PARKER T. HART. FONMIN CAGLAYANGIL ALSO PRESENT. MOST OF CONVERSATIONS TAKEN UP WITH REMINISCENCES AND TURKEY'S DEVELOPMENT PLANS.

2. DEMIREL MADE ONE BRIEF REFERENCE TO EMBARGO IN COURSE OF DISCUSSION. HE SAID TURKISH PEOPLE COULD UNDERSTAND TERMINATION OF MILITARY GRANT AID. MOREOVER, TERMINATION OF INTRODUCTION OF NEW AMERICAN WEAPONS INTO TURKEISH IVENTORY WOULD PROBABLY BE ACCEPTABLE. AFTER ALL, TURKEY HAD A RIGHT TO LOOK TO ITS WESTERN EUROPEAN ALLIES FOR NEW ADVANCED WEAPONS IT REQUIRED. BUT NO TURKISH GOVERNMENT, WENT ON DEMIREL, COULD ACCEPT PROPOSITION THAT USG WAS JUSTIFIED IN WITHHOLDING DELIVERY OF WEAPONS FOR WHICH TURKEY HAD ALREADY PAID. EVEN MORE IMPORTANT, HE STRESSED, WAS QUESTION OF SPARE PARTS FOR EXISTING EQUIPMENT IN TURKISH ARMED FORCES. TURKISH MILITARY STRENGTH, SAID DEMIREL, WAS BASED ON INVENTORY OF SIX RPT SIX BILLION DOLLARS (SIC) WORTH OF AMERICAN-SUPPLIED MATERIEL. THERE WAS NO ALTERNATIVE SOURCE OF SUPPLY FOR GOODS NEEDED TO MAINTAIN THIS EQUIPMENT. CONTINUED CLOSURE OF SPARE PARTS PIPELINE COULD NEVER BE ACCEPTED, DEMIREL SAID.

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3. PRIOR TO DEMIREL'S ARRIVAL, CAGLAYANGIL SPOKE BRIEFLY ABOUT

TURKISH INTERNAL POLITICAL SITUATION. HE SAID JUSTICE PARTY HOPED TO AMALGAMATE WITH FEYZIOGLU'S DEMOCRATIC PARTY AND TURKES' NATIONAL ACTION PARTY BEFORE NEXT GENERAL ELECTION. HE SAID JP WOULD NEVER JOIN WITH ERBAKAN AND HIS NATIONAL SALVATION PARTY WHO WERE PROVING TO BE VERY DIFFICULT COALITION PARTNERS. HE SAID PARTIAL ELECTION TO BE HELD IN OCTOBER WOULD BE AN IMPORTANT "TEST" IN TURKISH POLITICS. CAGLAYANGIL WENT ON TO SAY THAT IF ECEVIT AND HIS RPP MADE WIDE GAINS IN OCTOBER ELECTION, DEMIREL GOVERNMENT WOULD RESIGN, TO GIVE CHANCE FOR ECEVIT TO TRY TO FORM A GOVERNMENT AT THAT TIME.

4. CAGLAYANGIL INDICATED THAT HE WAS WELL INFORMED ON PRESS REPORTS OUT OF WASHINGTON SPECULATING ABOUT POSSIBLE CONGRESSIONAL COMPROMISE ON EMBARGO ISSUE. HE VIEWED PROSPECT THAT SALES AND CREDITS MIGHT BE RESTORED, BUT THAT GRANT MILITARY AID WOULD NOT, WITH QUANIMITY. HE DID EXPRESS CONCERN, HOWEVER, THAT JULY 17 WOULD COME AND GO BEFORE THE CONGRESS ACTED.
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